Amendment in the Coal Mines Act, 1973

482. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been amended to allow private Indian companies to mine coal and lignite for captive consumption and sale;

(b) if so, the targets for production of both the Public and Private Sector for the year 1997-98; and

(c) what has been achieved in the period April to September, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) In 1993 the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended to permit companies engaged in business of steel production, power generation and other end uses to mine coal. The Government are considering to amend further the Act to allow any Indian companies to mine coal.

(b) The target for production of coal in the country for the year 1997-98 is 297.45 Million tonnes. No target has been set for private sector production.

(c) The total production of coal in the country during the period April to September, 1997 is 121.54 Million tonnes.

Pollution in the Colliery area of Orissa

483. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India dated 21st July, 1997 regarding suffering of thousands of people living in the IB Valley open cast coalfield in the colliery area; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The employees of Mahanadi Coalfields where other non-employees are staying. M.C.L. does not carry medical examination of people other than its own employees nor do MCL have any record of their medical examination. Health check-up of 3658 employees of MCL living in IB Valley has revealed that not even a single case of pneumoconiosis has been detected and confirmed. However two suspected cases are yet to be confirmed by Pneumoconiosis Board. Two T.B. cases have been detected. It may be noted that diseases such as T.B. & other respiratory problems are not related to coal dust.

(b) Measures for control of coal dust taken by MCL include control of dust at generation point itself by adopting wet drilling, using dust extractors, doing controled blasting, dust suppression by automatic water sprinklers both fixed point as well as mobile. Black topping of roads, raising of green belts, use of dust suppressing chemical and regenerative air vacuum cleaner is under active consideration of the management. Regular monitoring of air, water, noise and soil is being done through Central Mine Research Institute at Dhanbad.

मध्य प्रदेश की विभिन्न कोयला खानों में कोयले की मात्रा

484. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री शमशेर सिंह सुरजेवाला:

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1995-96 और 1996-97 में मध्य प्रदेश में विभिन्न कोयला खानों में कितना कोयला निकाला गया;

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को कोयले पर कितनी राशि की रायल्टी दी गई और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) बिहार सरकार को उपर्युक्त अवधि के दौरान कोयले के उत्पादन पर कितनी राशि की रायल्टी दी गई और इसकी दरें क्या है?